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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

February 11, 2002

Applicants : Kazuo HOKKIRIGAWA et al

For : CERAMIC MATERIAL, METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME,
AND FORMED PRODUCT THEREOF

Atty. Docket No.: OPS Case 569

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT CANCELING CLAIMS

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee in the above-identified application, kindly enter the following:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 3-9 as shown below. A marked-up copy of the amended claims is enclosed herewith.

3. (Amended) A ceramic material according to claim 1, wherein the thermosetting resin is one kind of, or not less than two kinds of resins selected from the group consisting of phenol resin, diaryl phthalate resin, unsaturated polyester resin, epoxy resin, polyimide resin, and triazine resin.

4. (Amended) A ceramic material according to claim 1, wherein the binder is an organic binder and/or an inorganic binder.

5. (Amended) A ceramic material according to claim 1, wherein a mixing ratio of the defatted bran to the thermosetting resin is 50 to 90:50 to 10 by weight.

6. (Amended) A ceramic material according to claim 1, wherein a mixing ratio of the carbonized powders to the ceramic powders is 5 to 95:95 to 5 by weight.

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